

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2009

Hanaford School Cafeteria

200 Middle Road

East Greenwich, RI 02818

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO A**

VOTE

I. Call to Order

The first January meeting of the School Committee was held on January 6, 2009 at the Hanaford School at 7:00p.m. Members present: JeanAnn Guliano-Chair, Anne Palumbo, Vice-Chair, Mary Ellen Winters, Susan Records, Paul Martin, Deidre Gifford, and Robert Durant as well as Superintendent Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Paula Dillon, Director of Special Education.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of December 2 and 16, 2008 Executive Sessions and the December 16, 2008 meeting. The motion passed with Mr. Martin abstaining.

V. Announcements and Recognitions

a. Art Kershaw for being inducted into the Rhode Island Interscholastic Hall of Fame. It was noted that Mr. Kershaw is the only coach to win three championships in Rhode Island., and he has had a profound influence of thousands of kids. Mr. Kershaw thanked the Superintendent and said he would do it all over again. He added that the kids are the reason he went into education. Mr. Martin noted that Coach Kershaw made an impression on him.

b. East Greenwich High School Band and Orchestra All-State Students were recognized for their achievements.

VI. Superintendent's Report

a. Mr. Meyers stated that the school department will participate in Shape-Up RI. This was developed by a Brown University student and brought to the school department by Anne Palumbo and Wendy Fachon.

b. Fundraising efforts for the band trip to Washington, DC generated \$14,745 which was received from individual and corporate donations. Students going on the trip paid \$275. We were able to use the town's gambling money and a rebate from W.B. Mason. They have met their goal so far.

c. A School Committee representative is needed to attend the Commissioner's Forum on new regulations and standards which govern new superintendents and principals. Mr. Martin and Mrs. Records volunteered.

VII. Financial Report

Mrs. Crawford stated that ending November 30th stop loss funds

received from West Bay Community Health was \$88,000. She noted that we have received \$181,000 in stop loss funds to date. Mrs. Crawford also stated that by December, the deficit will run \$10,000 to \$15,000. She also stated that the Town is on track to close the 2007-2008 year by January 7, 2009, and is disappointed that we are in this time crunch. Mr. Meyers stated that the school department needs to work on their new budget, and last year's presentation was great and he would like to keep it in that format. He noted that next year, the budget should be closed out by the Town by October 15th.

VIII. Sub-Committee Reports

Consolidation: Mrs. Records stated that a meeting will be set up with the Town. Mr. Martin asked if our School Committee could meet with other School Committees on consolidation. He would like to contact the Warwick School Committee.

Personnel: Mrs. Records would like to start an employee survey. Mrs. Gifford wants to give everyone a chance to read it and would like to put this on another agenda for discussion.

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Mr. Martin asked about the number of people on a subcommittee. Mrs. Palumbo stated that this should be left up to the committee itself. Mrs. Guliano stated that it is good to assign something that comes up to a subcommittee, and Mrs. Records feels it is good to take advantage of people's expertise.

Wellness: Mrs. Palumbo noted that Shape-Up RI kick-off is February 9th and it is a 12 week effort. She also noted that the Wellness

Committee is hosting a Wellness Fair at the high school. Mrs. Palumbo stated that the food looks more presentable at lunch but it may take some more time. Annie Stoeher from Aramark was complimented on her efforts.

Communications: Mrs. Guliano is updating the website and she will send a monthly newsletter to the PTG's

Finance: Mr. Durant is waiting for the Governor's Speech

IX. Action Items

a. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the three bids as follows: Geo-tech to Aldinger Associates, Hazardous Waste Removal to ATC, and Cost Estimating to C2E. Mr. Winikur, the Owner's Representative for the Building Project stated that he is working closely with the Cole Principal and Assistant Principal and they will need to do major work in the buildings this summer. Mrs. Guliano stated that because of the aggressive timetable it is necessary to move forward very quickly. It was also noted that asbestos abatement removal will be done in the summer. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Revised Mission Statement

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the revised Mission Statement. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Appointment of Attorneys Oliverio and Marcaccio to represent the School Committee during Teacher contract negotiations

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the above appointment. Attorney Oliverio stated that, since

1996, he was a mediator at the Department of Labor and he mediated and negotiated 8 to 10 teacher, police, fire and municipal contracts. He added that East Greenwich is the only School Committee he has represented as a client, and he represents East Greenwich for the paraprofessional and custodian contracts, and has handled all grievances for those unions. He added that many communities farm out municipal work. Mrs. Guliano stated that the cost to negotiate the teacher contract will be capped at \$20,000. Mr. Martin suggested that they not take on too many school districts. Mr. Oliverio noted that he knows his limitations and would not take on another School Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

The John Doe appeal in Executive Session was moved up. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to go into Executive Session, under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) 1) (2). The Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session.

d. Appoint Sue Cienki and Wayne Pimental to the Building Committee

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the addition of Mrs. Cienki and Mr. Pimental to the Building Committee. It was noted that state statute requires us to have a town citizen on the Building Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Approval of Contract Between East Greenwich School Department and Fleet Construction

Mr. DiSaia, Construction Manager, and Michael Feeney, Chair of the Fields Committee, were present at the meeting. Mrs. Winters made a

motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the contract with Fleet Construction. It was noted that there was an adjustment on the sod because the location for installation was changed. Things will be in place for fall sports on August 1st. Mr. DiSaia noted that the company will be on site within 48 hours. He also noted that fundraising will begin, adding that Mr. Eustis from the Finance Subcommittee, is a professional fundraiser. Mr. Meyers stated that the Field Advisory Committee is the original Fields Committee, including people from the Boosters Club, Athletic Director, Coaches, and Recreation Department. He also noted that there is a budget item for the scoreboard but if it is donated, there will be money for other items. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Approval of Revised Budget for Fields Project

Mr. DiSaia noted that the budget is \$5,800,000 and the contingency of \$115,460 is not a lot of money for this type of project. He also stated that we have a very good contractor. Mr. DiSaia stated that there will be a groundbreaking ceremony, but it will be done at the opening, not now.

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The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Meyers thanked Mr. DiSaia for his company's contribution to the high school band trip.

X. Discussion Items

a. Revised Budget Development Timeline

The January 20th meeting is for the central office budget workshop and the January 27th meeting is for the high school budget

workshop.

b. Update on Teacher Contract Negotiations

Mr. Oliverio would like to meet with the School Committee first, put together proposals, and then sit down with the teacher's union. He added that he will share with the School Committee some sample proposals. Mrs. Guliano noted that ground rules are discussed in Executive Session., but she wants to keep the teachers informed. Mr. Oliverio noted that there is a proposal from the League of Cities and Towns to have teachers and municipal employees pay 25% of their benefits, and it would prohibit a School Committee from seeking a "Caruolo" suit in any fiscal year that general or education aid be reduced or suspended.

c. First Reading of Special Education Staff Policy

Mrs. Dillon, Director of Special Services, noted that the State has mandated a staffing policy for special education. She added that the case management cap of 30 students no longer exists. The School Committee can review this policy and it will be put on the agenda for January 27th for a second reading and vote.

d. Transportation Update-Can we move to a two tier system?

Mr. Meyers stated that when we do negotiate a new transportation contract, we will discuss starting times. Barbara Smith, a town resident, is interested in looking at bus contracts as a member of the community. It was noted that the last time we looked we found it would cost \$200,000 to go to a two tiered system. Mrs. Crawford stated that districts of this size don't have a three tiered system. She also stated that ridership is low here. She noted that in two years the

state will be taking over transportation. Mr. Durant asked if there was any thought of consolidating bus routes. Mr. Meyers stated that we are not going into cul de sacs now, and if this standing policy is implemented, we would eliminate a number of bus stops. Mrs. Gifford asked if there was going to be a later start for the high school since it is proven that car accidents go down with later starts. A subcommittee can study this. Mr. Martin asked if there is any information on how many students ride the buses. Mrs. Crawford responded that it fluctuates during the sports season.

e. Proposal from Nicholas Trott Long to maintain and update the Policy Manual

Mr. Meyers met with Mr. Long and feels the Policy Subcommittee should sit down with Mr. Long and then report back to the School Committee with their recommendations.

f. Families and Youth Intervention Program

Mrs. Palumbo stated that this is for at-risk individuals. She feels it keeps all important services on track. It was noted that the director of the program would meet with elementary and middle school principals. Judi Cavanaugh, EGEA co-president, asked why this program doesn't address K-3 students. Mrs. Palumbo responded that the problems are with grades 6 through 8 students, and this program is focused on middle and high school. It was noted that Robert Houghtaling has agreed to help the additional students. Mrs. Meyers stated that Mr. Houghtaling's job with the town overlaps and we need to have more resources for families. He added that actual procedures in terms of identification need to be flushed out, and the key places

are 6th graders transitioning to middle school and 8th graders transitioning to high school. Mr. Meyers also noted that we may lose the resource officers and added that they have prevented a lot of problems. The money is in the budget for the Intervention Program and we would fund the request in the future by cutting a paraprofessional position. Mrs. Gifford stated that a job description is needed for this position. Mr. Meyers would like more specifics for this program and we should look at it as services provided as opposed to a program.

XI. Future Business – January - March

- a. Review By-laws-Mr. Martin will look at the current by-laws**
- b. My 02818.com**

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Mr. Meyers stated that this is a service we can take advantage of and it will keep our website more current if we link it. This is a free service which connects the school to everything else in town. We will put this on a future agenda.

c. Review Charge of Building Committee and Fiscal Management of School Building Project

This needs to be established with Mr. Winikur from SBS and bring it back to the School Committee.

XII. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Palumbo asked if we have to go out to bid in order to have an agency conduct an SAT course at the high school. Mr. Meyers stated that a company would have to fill out a building rental form and pay

the proper amount for the rental. Mrs. Palumbo asked why the company has to pay a rental fee when parents are paying for the course and it services our students. Mr. Meyers responded that it is because this company is a for profit company.

Mrs. Winters asked about the employment of Mary Carter. Mr. Meyers responded that she is a contracted person who works on the CRP Grant and she is a liaison to Our Lady of Mercy School. It was also noted that we received a grant for a policy manual for special education department regulations. Mr. Meyers would like to have a presentation to the School Committee in the future on the CRP Grant. Mr. Meyers thanked the East Greenwich Education Association for their contribution for the band trip.

XIII. Executive Session, R.I.G. L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Teacher Contract Negotiations, John Doe Appeal - There was no Executive Session.

XIV: Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 10:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary